

# **SALINE AREA SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION Meeting

## **Liberty School Board Room**

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

6:30 PM



## MINUTES

### **Mission**

*We, the Saline Area Schools, will equip all students with the knowledge, technological proficiency, and personal skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly complex society. We expect that our students, staff, and the Saline Community will share in these responsibilities.*

### **OPENING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** of the regular Board of Education Meeting of April 13, 2021 at 6:34 by Board President Steben.

#### **Board Members Present**

Trustee Boatswain, Secretary Estep, Trustee Gerbe, Vice President McVey, Trustee Miller, Student Representative Noah Socha, President Steben, Trustee Valenti

#### **Central Administration Present**

Interim Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendent Ellis and Assistant Superintendent Owsley.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **STUDENTS**

No comments by students (both in person and Zoom).

#### **OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

No comments by other public stakeholders (both in person and Zoom).

<b>AGENDA</b>
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4. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Valenti, seconded by Trustee Miller, **to approve the agenda as printed.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti - Aye  
Trustee Boatswain - Aye  
Secretary Estep - Aye  
Trustee Gerbe - Aye  
Vice President McVey - Aye  
Trustee Miller - Aye  
President Steben - Aye

Ayes - All Present - **Motion Carried**

7. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. **DEI Leadership Coalition**

Presenters: Dr. Alex Schukow, Bridgette Sparks, Channon Washington, Cory Belote and Melissa Zaksek.

Brief overview of this group's history which began in 2018. Vision is to foster an inclusive, educational community where every member feels welcomed, heard, valued and respected. We aspire to involve and reflect the communities we serve because having varied perspectives leads to better outcomes. Mission is to be in alignment with the Saline Area Schools strategic framework and compass, create an educational environment that is diverse, equitable and inclusive (DEI). Also highlighted some of the work they have done to date and looking forward to the work of this group becoming more sustainable and continuing as it becomes part of the Board and supported by the adoption of the DEI Advisory Committee Policy. Presentation added to the district website under "District Resources".

B. **HS Writing Center**

Presenters: - Jen Denzin, HS Teacher/Advisor, Issac Smith and Sophie Dubovoy  
The Writing Center class is a student led initiative and run by students who take this as an independent study class. The Writing Center is a place for students to go for help with their writing. Writing Center "Consultants" are HS students who are nominated to participate in these positions. The mission is to promote positive change and growth in writing skills, regardless of proficiency or experience. They also reviewed the

submission process and scheduling appointments. Also publish a Literary magazine. Some partnership with the Saline Senior Center too.

- C. **Continue to Learn** - Interim Superintendent Laatsch  
Review of the Continue to Learn Presentation of 4/13/2021 which appears on the District website. This reviews the local, regional and state data with respect to Covid-19 as compared to the previous meeting on March 23rd. Also a review of the “dashboard” which does show an increase in # of students in quarantine which was expected. The testing that has been done with student athletes both at HS and MS has shown a less than 1% positivity rate. We are continuing with the 4 day in-person instruction and planning for summer programming and 5-day a week full in person instruction for the 2021/22 school year.
- D. **Finance Committee Report** - Trustee Valenti, Chair  
Finance committee report from April 13th meeting. Discussion on Series II and III. Series II almost exhausted, about \$300K left. Series III will be closing 4/27/2021. This is the \$13.5M most likely spent in 2022. Largest single category will be spent at the Middle School. Covid funding - we have not received all the money yet, but need to remember that these are 1 time funding dollars and should not be considered part of our operational budget but do more long term planning with these funds. Continuing discussions on budget and student count which will be reviewed at our next meeting on May 3rd along with numbers of school of choice and returning students.
- E. **Superintendent Search Update** - Trustee Valenti, Chair  
Board reviewed applications and made their decisions on who would be interviewed for the Superintendent position at a special Board meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2021. Meeting was facilitated by Mr. David Killips from the Michigan Leadership Institute. 5 candidates were selected. Interviews will be April 26th 28th, and 29th with the final interviews to take place on May 5th.

**MOTION** made by Trustee Boatswain, seconded by Trustee Miller, **to recess for 5 minute and return at approximately 8:40 pm.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti - Aye  
Trustee Boatswain - Aye  
Secretary Estep - Aye  
Trustee Gerbe - Aye  
Vice President McVey - Aye  
Trustee Miller - Aye  
President Steben - Aye

Ayes - All Present - **Motion Carried**

8. **ACTION ITEM**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Valenti, seconded by Trustee Miller, **to approve the School Building and Site Bonds, Series III ratifying resolution as outlined by Thrun Law Firm and submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti - Aye  
Trustee Boatswain - Aye  
Secretary Estep - Aye  
Trustee Gerbe - Aye  
Vice President McVey - Aye  
Trustee Miller - Aye  
President Steben - Aye

Ayes - All Present - **Motion Carried**

**MOTION** made by Vice President McVey, seconded by Trustee Valenti, **to approve, as amended, the Resolution approving Procedures for Electronic Meetings and Saline Area Schools Board of Education Electronic Meeting Procedures as advised by Collins and Blaha Law Firm and submitted by Assistant Superintendent Ellis and President Steben with modifications to replace language that states B(3)(ii) to read A(3)(ii) in all places and under the section "Notice to Board President" replace language that states Section II(B) and/or (C) to read Section II (A) and/or (B).**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti - Aye  
Trustee Boatswain - Aye  
Secretary Estep - Aye  
Trustee Gerbe - Aye  
Vice President McVey - Aye  
Trustee Miller - Aye  
President Steben - Aye

Ayes - All Present - **Motion Carried**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Boatswain, seconded by Vice President McVey **to approve the Saline Area Schools Board of Education Electronic Meeting Procedures, with amended language as stated in above Motion, to temporarily reside within our Board Operating Procedures until December 31, 2021 or until orders are lifted in Washtenaw County.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti - Aye  
Trustee Boatswain - Aye  
Secretary Estep - Aye  
Trustee Gerbe - Aye  
Vice President McVey - Aye  
Trustee Miller - Aye  
President Steben - Aye

Ayes - All Present - **Motion Carried**

**Table discussion regarding the Affidavit.**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Boatswain, **to approve the minutes from the April 8th, 2021 Closed Session for Superintendent Search, as facilitated by Vice President McVey.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti -Aye  
Trustee Boatswain Aye  
Secretary Estep - Aye  
Trustee Gerbe - Aye  
Vice President McVey - Aye  
Trustee Miller - Aye  
President Steben - Aye

Ayes - All Present - **Motion Carried**

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. **DEI Advisory Committee Policy Draft, 2nd Reading** - Secretary Estep, Chair  
In 2019, the Board of Education authorized the creation of the DEI Advisory Committee, the Board Policy committee began drafting the policy in the fall of 2020, the 1st draft was introduced in early 2021 and the 1st reading was presented on March 23, 2021. Today it is presented as the 2nd reading and possible vote.

This DEI Advisory Committee Policy Draft will be added as an action item to the April 27th meeting agenda for a vote. Reviewed requests that had been suggested regarding stakeholder groups. Community members remain and the number of Board of Education members did get removed. Any further suggestions need to be communicated to the Policy Committee to avoid any further delay in moving forward to a vote planned for April 27th.

10. **ADMINISTRATION/BOARD UPDATES**

**Interim Superintendent Laatsch**

Acknowledges MASB course completions by Board of Education Trustees. Thank you for modeling this professional development for our staff as well. Also kudos to Vice President McVey on the recognition of “Celebration Of Excellence2021” from EMU. Also thank you to all staff as the district has moved into the 4 day in person instruction model. The 1st Engagement session using our “Saline Bridge to Civility” platform which will be held on April 14th. There is still time to register for future sessions.

**Trustee Valenti** - Congratulations to Vice President McVey.

**Trustee Boatswain** - Reminder to Board about the upcoming foundation fundraising event “Lights Camera, Auction” which will be held Saturday, May 15th at 7 pm. This will be held at the Travis Pointe Country Club. Please show your support to FSAS and our district.

**Student Representative Noah Socha**

Updated board on sports, clubs and organization activities. NHS will be distributing bags throughout the community the week of 4/17 for the backpack drive which collects school supplies for organizations that support families in needs. Follow directions on the bag. Collection date is April 24, 2021.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

*The following are offered as part of the Consent Agenda. The motion noted will allow for the authorization of all listed items, without discussion, unless a member of the Board requests that any one or all be considered individually.*

**MOTION** made by Trustee Gerbe, seconded by Secretary Estep, **to authorize the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:**

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Study Session Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2021.
- B. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2021.
- C. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of April 13, 2021, in the amount of \$2,118,891.88.
- D. **Approval of Payment** of the Bond Series II Accounts Payable of April 13, 2021, in the amount of \$172,634.34.
- E. **Receive and File** Curriculum, Finance and Human Resources Reports.
- F. **Approval** of NEOLA policy updates for the Policy Manual as recommended and submitted by the Board Policy Committee.
- G. **Reaffirm Commitment** to Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as approved on 9/22/2020, amended on 1/21/21.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti Aye  
Trustee Boatswain - Aye  
Secretary Estep - Aye  
Trustee Gerbe - Aye  
Vice President McVey - Aye  
Trustee Miller  
President Steben

<b>CLOSING</b>
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**12. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA**

- A. Continue to Learn
- B. Girls Who Code
- C. FIRST Robotics (Heritage/MS/HS)
- D. DEI Advisory Committee (Action)
- E. NEOLA Nondiscrimination/Anti Harassment Policies (Consent)

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STUDENTS**

No comments by students (both in person and Zoom).

**OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS**

No comments by other public stakeholders (both in person and Zoom).

**14. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on April 27, 2021.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Boatswain, to adjourn the regular Board of Education Meeting of April 13, 2021, at 10:09PM.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Trustee Valenti  
Trustee Boatswain  
Secretary Estep  
Trustee Gerbe  
Vice President McVey  
Trustee Miller  
President Steben

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Estep". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Susan Estep  
Board Secretary

*Recorded by: Betty Jahnke*